

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 9 is added.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over van Wersch et al. (van Wersch), U.S. Patent No. 4,442,560. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

van Wersch fails to disclose or suggest a machine comprising a tension roller that can move towards and away from a reversing roller, as recited in claim 1.

van Wersch discloses an apparatus for continuously finishing and/or dyeing planar textile structures. The apparatus includes a cylinder shell 1 and a backing cloth 8 that runs over rollers 10, 11 and an outer surface 6 of the cylinder shell 1 (Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 55-58). The cylinder shell 1 also includes lines 4 that feed an underpressure to the surface 6 of the cylinder shell 1. A vacuum pressure thus acts on an area of the surface 6 covered by the backing cloth 8 when the cylinder shell 1 revolves (col. 1, lines 58-63).

van Wersch thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 1 because van Wersch fails to disclose or suggest a roller that can move towards and away from another roller or the adjusting of tension in an endless belt by moving a roller towards and away from another roller. Although van Wersch discloses rollers 10, 11 that surround the cylinder shell 1 (allegedly corresponding to a center roller), van Wersch fails to provide any disclosure or suggestion with regard to moving any of the rollers 10, 11 toward and away from each other or the cylinder shell 1. There is also no logical reason to suggest that van Wersch moves the rollers 10, 11 relative to each other or the cylinder shell 1 because van Wersch uses a vacuum pressure. van Wersch thus fails to disclose or suggest, at least the tension roller, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, van Wersch fails to disclose all of the features recited in claim 1 as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims thereof. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

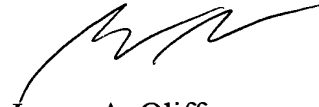
Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over van Wersch in view of the Gorondy, U.S. Patent No. 4,420,307, and claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over van Wersch in view of Eum, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,573. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Gorondy and Eum fail to overcome the deficiencies of van Wersch in disclosing or suggesting all of the features recited in claim 1 because neither Gorondy nor Eum discloses the tension roller, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, none of the applied references disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1 as well as the additional features recited in claims 4 and 7. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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